

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-18 stand rejected in this Office Action.

Applicant acknowledges the change of the art unit and the examiner for the present patent application. Applicant notes that the Examiner acknowledges Applicant's claim of priority based on application 09/218,945. Applicant acknowledges that Applicant's arguments in the paper filed on October 7, 2005 with respect to the rejections of claims 1-18 are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in the Office Action mailed February 28, 2006.

Regarding the Declaration, Applicant acknowledges the remarks presented in the Office Action. Applicant believes that the remarks to the co-pending application are directed to Application Serial No. 09/868,669. It is the Applicant's belief that the inventors executing the Declaration reflect the inventive entity that is responsible for all the claimed subject matter. Applicant notes that the claimed subject matter includes the features of independent claims 1 and 10 as well as the features of dependent claims 2-9 and 11-18.

Drawings

Applicant is amending the Figures 1-30 to remove references to WO 00/38149, PCT/US99/02737. No new subject matter is added. Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections.

Specification

Applicant is removing pages 1-43 to remove references to WO 00/38149, PCT/US99/02737. No new subject matter is added. Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections.

Amendments Clarifying Terms in Claims

The Examiner suggests that Applicant further define the terms "information indicative of a goal" and "presentation" in the claims. Regarding "information indicative of a goal," the Office Action alleges (Page 2, lines 11-18.):

This is vague to the point of being accomplished by any abstract information such as “red” (which could indicate a desired color goal for an object) or “think” (which could be an abstract goal for the user to consider). The limitation of “information indicative of a goal” would be fulfilled by any instruction, such as “stop” (indicative of the goal of ceasing some action or process). “If $x < 5$ the $x = x+1$, else $x = x-2$ ” represents software code indicating a goal of adding one to the variable x when x has a value less than five, but subtracting two if x has a value greater than or equal to five. Is the goal intended to be fulfilled by the user, the facilitator, or the presentation itself?

Applicant is amending claim 1 to include the feature of “receiving information indicative of a goal, **the goal being associated with a training objective of a student, the training objective corresponding to mirroring an actual work environment of the student**” to clarify what is being amended. (Emphasis added.) The amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed, e.g., page 4, lines 15-20. Applicant believes that the feature addresses the Examiner’s suggestion. Applicant is similarly amending claim 10 to include the feature of “logic that integrates information that motivates accomplishment of a goal for use in the presentation, the goal being associated with a training objective of a student, the training objective corresponding to mirroring an actual work environment of the student.”

The Office Action further alleges that the term “presentation” is ambiguous. Applicant is amending claim 1 to include the feature of “managing information flow utilizing a table of components **to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation**, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of service through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation” to further clarify the term “presentation.” (Emphasis added.) Applicant is similarly amending claim 10 to include the feature of “logic that manages information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of services through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation.” Applicant believes that the above amendments address all of the suggestions expressed by the Office Action regarding the terms “information indicative of a goal” and “presentation” in the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18 are rejected under 103 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,161 (Purcell), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,727,950 (Cook) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,372,507 (Goleh).

Applicant is amending claim 1 to include the feature of “managing information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein **each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of service through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation.**” (Emphasis added.) The amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, the specification discloses (Page 8, line 37- page 9, line 7. Emphasis added.):

We have clearly defined why a combined component/framework approach is the best solution for delivering high-quality BusSim solutions at a lower cost. Given that there are a number of third party frameworks already on the market that provide delivery capability for a wide variety of platforms, the TEL project is focused on defining and developing a set of components that provide unique services for the development and delivery of BusSim solutions. **These components along with a set of design and test workbenches are the tools used by instructional designers to support activities in the four phases of BusSim development.** We call this suite of tools the Business Simulation Toolset. Following is a description of each of the components and workbenches of the toolset. A Component can be thought of as a black box that encapsulates the behavior and data necessary to support a related set of services. It exposes these services to the outside world through published interfaces. The published interface of a component allows you to understand what it does through the services it offers, but not how it does it.

The specification further discloses development cycle activities in the design phase, build phase, test phase, and execution phase. (Page 5, line 27- page 7, line 2.)

The Office Action admits that (Page 7, lines 155-157.):

The combination of Purcell and Goleh fails to explicitly teach: -(c) each component encapsulating a behavior characteristic and data to support an associated set of services through a published interface.

However, the Office Action alleges that Cook teaches (Page 10, line 222 – page 11, line 250. Emphasis added.):

... - (c) managing information flow utilizing a table of components, each component encapsulating a behavior characteristic and data to support an associated set of services (C5-63 especially "FIG. 2A also shows an exemplary screen layout ... preferably partitioned so that **principal components of this invention** are displayed; ... Materials area 220 is for the instructional materials, tools, and communication materials to present visual display objects and for these components to receive interactive input. ... The system area at top includes toolbar 218 for selecting particular available **system components**. In particular, always available on this toolbar are selection icons 219 for the calendar and scheduling tool. ... This software provides, among other services, support for I/O devices attached to the client, a file system with cache control, lower level network protocols, such as TCP/IP and ATM, and higher-level network protocols, such as HTTP V2.0. Basic shared ABI system capabilities are provided by executive software 223. ... Such downloading can utilize higher level network transfer protocols, or alternatively, directly use lower network protocols." C16 L50-C17 L40 and "Instructional Materials: the components of a course of instruction .. to the student." C9 L55-63 and "Tools Data: the content ... Virtual Tutor: the ABI system components acting together to emulate a human tutor; ... personal tutor" C10 L25-35 and "§5.1.1 Functional Components ... from the system" C10 L41-C11 L42 and "This optional capability serves ... the operating system components to maintain some form of version control of the read-only data. ... access the ABI system services from any available client system at any time by simply downloading the student data object to that client system." C16 L15-30); **The table in Figure 2A allows a user access to various components of the invention through a published user interface.** These components clearly encapsulate behaviors and data that are essential to providing associated services as disclosed in the above references and throughout the disclosure of the invention. ...

Cook discloses *principal components of the invention* in fig. 2A that include material and tools area 220, agent area 215, and system toolbar 218. (Column 16, lines 51-58.) Cook discloses toolbar 218 merely for selecting particular available *system components*. (Column 17, lines 8-14.) However, as disclosed by Cook, *system components* are different from *components of the invention*. *System components* are components that are maintained by the operating system and include memory resources, processing resources, and I/O resources. (Column 16, lines 4-30.) Consequently, system toolbar 218 does not provide access to various *components of the invention* through a published user interface.

Moreover, with the above feature of claim 1, each component supports activities in a plurality of development phases of a simulation. Cook merely discloses a student client system when a session is in progress with materials being presented. (Column 17, lines 16-18.) However, Cook fails to even suggest "each said component supporting activities in a **plurality** of

development phases of the simulation” such as during a design phase, build phase, or test phase. (Emphasis added.) Thus, the combination of Cook and Kessler does not suggest the feature of “managing information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of service through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation.”

Claim 10 includes the similar feature of “logic that manages information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of services through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation” and is not suggested by the combination of Purcell, Cook, and Goleh for at least the above reasons. Moreover, claims 2, 4-9, 11, and 13-18 ultimately depend from independent claims 1 and 10. Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18.

Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purcell, Cook, Goleh as applied to claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,847,784 (Clancey).

Claims 3 and 12 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 10. Because Clancey does not remedy the deficiencies of Purcell, Cook, and Goleh, claims 3 and 12 -3 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-18 are provisionally rejected the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16, 19, and 17, respectively, of co-pending Application No. 09/868,669.

The Office Action alleges that (Page 24, line 624- page 25, line 631.):

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because all limitations claimed in the instant application can be found in the copending application. The claims found in Application No. 09/868,669 add the additional limitation of a spreadsheet format for the goal and a published interface for the table of components. It would be obvious to remove these limitations, so the claims found in the instant application are rejected as being obvious over the claims of the copending application.

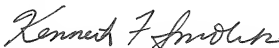
This is a provisional obvious-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim 1 of the present patent application includes the feature of "managing information flow utilizing a table of components **to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation**, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of service through a published interface, **each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation.**" (Emphasis added.) However, claim 1 of co-pending patent application 09/868,669 does not include this feature. Similarly, claim 10 of the present patent application includes the feature of "logic that manages information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of services through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation." Claims 2-9 and 11-18 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-18.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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